

Christmas Spirit Comes To State's Mentally Ill

SALEM (AP) — The spirit of Christmas permeated Oregon State Hospital this week as scores of gifts were distributed and parties held for the mentally ill.

Although locked doors are becoming fewer, for many patients the only contact with the outside is through volunteers who visit them regularly.

Some 1900 persons, mostly women, form the corps of volunteers under the direction of Mrs. Katherine Springer and provide the Christmas parties.

Many of these women come at least once a month the year around and in the words of Mrs. Springer they are "the bridge between the inside and the out."

A present at one of these parties for a woman in her 70s was a doll. She named it "Mine." To her it was just that, something that was her own.

This woman and others like her need things to keep them occupied — to keep them from just sitting, Mrs. Springer said.

She told of one 72-year-old man who had been in the state hospital 31 years and had not received a letter. More than half the 3,200 patients, she said, have nobody on the outside to visit or help them.

"The volunteers come in and do something for them," Mrs. Springer said. "It means everything to them. Otherwise they would just sit."

There are many who can do little more than just sit staring

Theft Case To Be Heard

The Klamath County Grand Jury will have an opportunity to consider the case of two young women accused of grand larceny as a result of a theft of \$84 from an OTI student last Thursday.

District Judge Joseph J. Thalhoffer Wednesday bound Lynda J. David, 20, 707 Washington Street, and Rebecca P. Barrera, 21, 1232 Pine Street, over to the grand jury.

Testimony by police officers at the preliminary hearing Wednesday was that both girls denied taking the money from Norman Priest, 33, 134 North Third Street. The girls had accompanied Priest to his apartment for a party.

Officers said both girls signed statements concerning the incident. Miss David said she got \$80 from Miss Barrera who, in turn, said that Miss David took the money.

The young women were lodged in the county jail in lieu of \$1,000 bail.

The Dalles Has Water Problem

THE DALLES (AP) — Engineers are going to pump surplus water from Mill Creek into an underground reservoir to try to restore the water table at The Dalles.

They started it Wednesday, putting the first Mill Creek water into the 14th St. reservoir, where it will be filtered and chlorinated, then pumped into the underground reservoir.

Engineers of the city and the U. S. Geological Survey say there is a vast natural reservoir underground here. The city has drawn on it so heavily, however, that the water level has dropped sharply in each of the last three summers.

Engineers hope to put 200 or 300 million gallons of water into the reservoir before next summer.

Court Upholds Big Judgment

SALEM (AP)—The Oregon Supreme Court today upheld a Multnomah County circuit court judgment which granted Katherine M. Livingston \$17,500 in her malpractice suit against Portland General Hospital and Dr. Donald Nickelsen.

She claimed that a piece of plaster was imbedded in her arm as a result of a cast having been placed on her fractured left arm.

The Supreme Court, in a decision by Justice Pro Tem Dal M. King, said the issues were fairly presented to the jury, and that the evidence was ample to sustain the verdict.

blankly. But many more crave things to do, people to talk to — for relief from bitter loneliness.

As Mrs. Springer passed through the recreation area for those who have campus privileges — freedom of the grounds in certain daylight hours — many called her by name. The widow of a former lumber company executive in Coos Bay, she came to the hospital several years ago to direct this volunteer program.

In a women's ward the patients made a corsage for each member of the visiting volunteers at the ward party. The volunteers in turn had a present for each of the women patients in the ward.

"The biggest problem is getting entertainment for the patients," said Mrs. M. E. Chadsey, a volunteer from Salem. "We get real desperate for music sometimes."

The volunteers come not only from Salem, but from Oswego, Portland, Eugene, Corvallis and other Western Oregon communities stretching from Astoria to Klamath Falls. Mrs. Springer said there always is a need for more.

Many who can't come often or can't come at all send gifts. These volunteers remember birthdays and other special holidays too.



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